



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Ex-Navy officer sentenced for illegally exporting military aircraft parts *Defendant plotted with high-profile Pakistani weapons trader in arms export scheme*

SAN DIEGO – A onetime Naval intelligence officer from Escondido was sentenced yesterday to one year in prison for his role in a scheme to illegally export military aircraft parts to Malaysia and Belgium following a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS).

George Charles Budenz II, 61, was sentenced for violating the Arms Export Control Act as part of a massive probe that began in 2004. In addition to the prison term, Budenz was also ordered to spend six months in a halfway house and pay a \$10,000 fine.

In October 2005, the former Navy Commander and naval attaché pleaded guilty to three counts of illegally exporting military aircraft parts as part of a scheme involving Pakistani arms trafficker Arif Ali Durrani. Specifically, Budenz admitted that, at Durrani's direction, he illegally exported engine parts for the U.S. F-5 fighter jet, the T-38 military trainer jet, and Chinook military helicopters to Malaysia and Belgium without the required export licenses.

At Durrani's trial here earlier this year, Budenz testified that he knew the Pakistani national had previously been convicted of violating the Arms Export Control Act and that Durrani was ineligible to obtain Department of State licenses for the export of defense articles. Evidence presented during the trial established that some of the aircraft parts Durrani exported were destined for Iran. Durrani was sentenced last month to more than 12 years in prison.

"This case demonstrates ICE's commitment to investigating arms traffickers who sell U.S. military parts to state sponsors of terrorism," said Miguel Unzueta, special agent in charge for the ICE office of investigations in San Diego. "ICE is helping to keep sensitive technology from falling into the wrong hands."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.